

Application Serial No: 10/768,940
Attorney Docket No.: 51890

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. 1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in the application, claim 10 having been newly presented above.

By the foregoing amendments, claim 1 has been amended by further reciting a photo-acid-generating agent, support for which can be found in the specification at least at page 5, last paragraph. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form, and new claim 10, which depends from claim 4 recites that the composition further comprises a photo-acid-generating agent.

Turning now to the Official Action, claims 1 and 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP '923 (EP 1 142 923A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The present invention relates generally to the field of negative-type photosensitive resin compositions. Claim 1, as amended above, sets forth a negative-type photosensitive resin composition. The composition comprises an epoxy compound, poly(*p*-vinylphenol), a photo-acid-generating agent and a phenol-biphenylene resin.

Claim 4 sets forth a method for the formation of a resist pattern. The method comprises the steps of coating a negative-type photosensitive resin composition on a substrate, wherein the composition comprises an epoxy compound, poly(*p*-vinylphenol) and a phenol-biphenylene resin; exposing the resin composition; and developing of the exposed composition to form the resist pattern.

EP '923 relates to an epoxy resin composition which can be used as a semiconductor encapsulating resin, and more specifically, to a flame retardant epoxy resin composition.

EP '923 does not disclose or suggest each feature of the presently claimed invention. For example, EP '923 does not disclose or fairly suggest a negative-type photosensitive resin composition that includes a photo-acid-generating agent, as recited in claim 1.

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Nor does EP '923 disclose or fairly suggest the presently claimed method of claim 4, which involves coating a particular negative-type photosensitive resin composition on a substrate, exposing the resin composition, and developing of the exposed composition to form a resist pattern. There appears to be no disclosure or suggestion at all in EP '923 of formation of a resist pattern by exposure and developing.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection based on EP '923 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kiuchi et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,730,402 or corresponding U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0152776). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Kiuchi et al relates to a flame-retardant epoxy resin composition, as well as to a varnish solution, a prepreg and a laminate all made with the composition.

The §102(e) rejection based on Kiuchi et al should be withdrawn for the same reasons described above with respect to EP '923. For example, Kiuchi does not disclose or suggest a negative-type photosensitive resin composition that includes a photo-acid-generating agent, as recited in claim 1. Nor does that document disclose or fairly suggest the presently claimed method of claim 4, which involves coating a particular negative-type photosensitive resin composition on a substrate, exposing the resin composition, and developing of the exposed composition to form a resist pattern.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection based on Kiuchi et al is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

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If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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